



Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **April 2016**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

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Stakeholder Comment Period Closing Soon for Updates to the Green-e Energy National Standard

Stakeholder comment period closes Saturday, April 30, 2016

Green-e Energy seeks feedback on potential future provisions of the Green-e Energy National Standard (the "Standard") and is accepting feedback from all interested stakeholders through midnight PT on Saturday, April 30, 2016.

To comment, take the survey. Prior to taking the survey, you may download and review a [PDF of all survey questions](#) .

Stakeholder comments are due by midnight PT Saturday, April 30, 2016. CRS may conduct a second comment period, incorporating feedback from this first comment period. The current Standard and this PDF summary of all potential changes are available at [Green-e Energy National Standard and Governing Documents](#)  for you to view before completing the survey.

This survey may take up to 30 minutes to complete, depending on your responses. If you need to pause while taking the survey (for example, to look up information), you may resume it at any time prior to midnight PT on Saturday, April 30, by using the link that directed you there initially, provided you do so from the same computer and browser. You may also go back and change your answers at any time prior to clicking "Submit Survey Responses" at the end of the survey.

Source: EPA Green Power Network, 4/15/16

"Community Storage" Is a New Way to Think About Reducing Grid Costs

How Utilities are Taking Advantage of Customer-Owned Energy Storage and Demand Flexibility

Energy storage is one of the hottest topics in the electricity industry today. As battery costs decline, many actors are recognizing the huge potential of storage to lower the cost of the grid and become a booming, multibillion dollar market. But although Tesla and its competitors capture all the headlines, it's always worth noting that energy storage can come from multiple sources—not just batteries—and there are many ways to bring the technology to market.

Now, a promising new initiative launched by a coalition of industry stakeholders aims to promote the concept of "community storage" in utilities across the U.S. Community storage programs let utilities aggregate customer-owned, behind-the-meter resources like water heaters, electric vehicles, and batteries to provide services to the grid. In doing so, these programs help reduce the cost of maintaining and upgrading the grid, and help lower customers' bills.

Source: RMI Outlet, 4/18/16

Transmission planning webinar now online

The Four Corners Wind Resource Center's latest webinar, "Connecting Renewable Energy Resources to Markets: Understanding Transmission Planning," is now available to view online.

This webinar, the sixth in a series hosted by the Four Corners Wind Resource Center (4CWRC), informs attendees about how transmission planning is conducted and how to participate by providing a look at three transmission planning processes. The webinar also reviews new transmission segments being planned in the 4CWRC region.

Source: Four Corners Wind Resource Center, 4/12/16

Shining Sunlight on SunShot's Project Portfolio

Following the 2009 [President's Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government](#), federal agencies have strived to make information about their operations and decisions readily available to the public online. This transparency has spurred a dialogue with the American people and shined some light on how federal agencies work to improve the lives of the American people.

Our SunShot program is following suit and providing more open information than ever. Over the past six months, SunShot has provided detailed descriptions for more than 200 active and recently finished projects on its website. In the future, the program will continue to add solar energy projects from its archives to be as transparent about its portfolio as possible. In addition, you can see how far-flung awardees are--from Maine to Hawaii--on a [new project map](#).

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 4/7/16

Red Power Energy at the Indigenous Film & Arts Festival

Please join us at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on Wednesday, April 13th for a screening of Red Power Energy in the Museum's Phipps Theater presented by the Indigenous Film & Arts Festival. The event is free (suggested donation \$5 to the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management).

Following the film, Mervyn Tano, President of the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management, and former General Counsel and Director of Environmental Programs at the Council of Energy Resource Tribes will lead a discussion with the audience.

Source: Rocky Mountain PBS, 4/7/16

Existing State Laws Collectively Require a 50% Increase in U.S. Renewable Electricity

Status report shows that RPS policies likely to remain an important driver for renewables growth

State renewables portfolio standards, known as RPS policies, have contributed to more than half of all renewable electricity growth in the United States since 2000. Most state RPS requirements will continue to rise through at least 2020, if not beyond, and collectively these policies will require substantial further growth in U.S. renewable electricity supplies.

These findings, illustrated in the figures below, are part of a new annual status report on state RPS policies, from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab).

The status report—published in slide-deck form and entitled [U.S. Renewables Portfolio Standards: 2016 Annual Status Report](#)—provides a data-intensive review of state RPS policies, highlighting recent legislative revisions, key policy design features, past and projected impacts on renewables development, compliance trends, and costs.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 4/6/16

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Reports and Studies

N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center Releases Q1 2016 Solar Policy Update to The 50 States of Solar

Thirty-nine States Take Action on Distributed Solar Policy and Rate Design during Q1 2016

The N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) released its Q1 2016 edition of The 50 States of Solar. The quarterly series provides insights on state regulatory and legislative discussions and actions on distributed solar policy, with a focus on net metering, community solar, residential fixed charges, residential solar charges, third-party ownership, and utility-led rooftop solar programs.

Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 4/26/16

Download webinar on Indiana small wind incentive from Midwest Energy Center

In case you could not attend the MWECE webinar on Indiana's new incentives for distributed wind energy, or would like to revisit the content, the presentations are now available to download. Guest speakers include Laura Ann Arnold and Kevin Moore. Laura is the president of Indiana Distributed Energy Alliance and gave an overview of how and why the FIT (feed-in tariff) was created. Kevin is the president of Midwest Wind and Solar, LLC, and focused on who can use it, what projects are eligible and how to get started.

A recording of the [webinar](#)  is also on the MWECE website.

Source: Midwest Energy Center, 4/12/16

Presentations available from Imperial Valley Renewable Energy Summit

Download presentations from the Imperial Valley Renewable Energy Summit, an exciting, comprehensive program of engaging and informative speakers discussing the issues that are most relevant to the renewable energy industry. Studies show Imperial Valley has the potential to produce up to 25,000 megawatts of renewable energy. As California pushes for an increased Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) of 33% by 2020 to 50% by 2030, Imperial Valley continues to be positioned to be a major contributor in helping the state achieve its RPS goals.

Source: Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation, 3/31/16

SEPA Report Details Key Drivers for Cutting Utility-Scale Solar LCOE

'Least cost' procurement policies can obscure factors that add long-term value

As energy industry news stories tout record lows in utility-scale solar prices in a handful of jurisdictions across the country, a growing number of utilities are considering integrating these projects into their resource portfolios.

But, as a new report from the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) says, not all solar projects are created equal. Utilities looking to procure cost-competitive, high-value solar projects need to evaluate a range of factors, from regional solar resource intensity to local labor and permitting costs to system design issues, such as whether to use a fixed-tilt or single axis tracking system. The report was produced in partnership with solar project developer Recurrent Energy, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar.

Source: Solar Electric Power Association, 4/5/16

Be Solar Smart – Checklist for Residential Consumers Considering Solar Energy

More and more Americans are using the sun to power their homes. It's a smart move for millions of homes and businesses. It's also an important decision. As you explore installing solar panels on your roof, you will find you have many choices to make.

Using this checklist puts important information in your hands that you need to know before entering into a contract to install a solar system. It offers questions, considerations and protective measures that can help you get the answers you need to make informed decisions that can affect your bottom line – the safe and effective installation of a system that meets your expectations.

Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 4/5/16

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Department of the Interior Announces Two BIA Funding Opportunities

- The Energy and Mineral Development Program will provide funding for projects that assess, evaluate, or otherwise promote the processing, use, or development of energy and mineral resources on Indian lands. Eligible entities include federally recognized tribes, authorized tribal organizations, and tribal energy resource development organizations. For eligible projects, visit the [IEED Energy and Mineral Development Program Web page](#).
- The Tribal Energy Development Capacity Program will help develop tribal capacity to regulate and manage energy resources. Eligible entities include federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native villages, regional or village corporations, tribal organizations,

and tribal energy resource development organizations. For eligible projects, visit the [IEED Tribal Energy Development Capacity Program Web page](#).

Applications for both funding opportunities are due July 8, 2016.

Source: DOE Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, 4/28/16

Find more [funding sources](#).